

THE RIO NEWS.

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NUMBER 18

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EDITORIAL AND PUBLICATION OFFICES—

79, Rua Sete de Setembro.

RIO DE JANEIRO, MAY 2nd, 1893.

THE movements in Rio Grande the past week have been both confusing and uneventful. There has been no actual fighting beyond a possible skirmish or two, and the real position of the contending forces has become wrapped in doubt. It is now said that Salgado is marching in the direction of Quarany, where a junction with Tavares is to be effected, but the latter, according to a telegram of this morning, is still near Livramento, while Salgado is encamped eight leagues from Quarany. It is uncertain whether the Uruguayan garrison has been reinforced, as the telegrams are contradictory. It is asserted that the force of General Tavares now numbers 5,210 men, well mounted but badly clothed. The force under Salgado is not given. On the other side the government forces have been singularly quiet, perhaps they are waiting for the minister of war to complete his arrangements. General Telles is said to have started in pursuit of Tavares, but as the latter is not travelling very rapidly the pursuit is difficult to understand. In view of the complications arising in Rio de Janeiro, it is possible that the contending forces will await developments and save their ammunition.

The long-expected ministerial crisis occurred at last on the 27th ult., and resulted in the resignation of Lient. Col. Dr. Innocencio Serzedello Corrêa as minister of finance and Admiral Custodio José de Mello as minister of marine. On the Sunday following decrees were signed appointing Dr. Felisbello Firmino de Oliveira Freire (deputy and recently appointed minister of foreign affairs) to the portfolio of finance, and Admiral Felipe Firmino Rodrigues Chaves to that of marine. The minister of finance will continue to act as minister of foreign affairs for the present. The reasons given for the resignation of the minister of finance are to the effect that his recent recommendations for economy have not been followed, while the President wishes to break down the only obstacle to unrestricted expenditure by restricting the powers of the *tribunal de contas* as

the Treasury board of audit is called. The reasons given by Admiral Custodio de Mello are wider and more important in character, as they attack the President's policy in Rio Grande and his treatment of his ministers. This second letter we reproduce in full, as it is a document destined to have no slight weight in the immediate future of this country. The opposition of so influential an officer as the retiring minister of marine will not only greatly weaken the government in its effort to repress the revolution in Rio Grande, but it may arouse a determined resistance to executive interference in other states. It is more than the substitution of one minister by another; it may mean another effort to overthrow the personal character of the national government. As we have frequently stated, the national government is a dictatorship pure and simple, and as long as this is the case peaceful opposition is impossible.

The news from Santa Catharina and Pernambuco last week were decidedly alarming in character. In the former state, it is charged that the frontier commander recently sent there, Major Firmino by name, has inaugurated a reign of terror in the small places visited by his troops. He has seen fit to play the rôle of a police official, and has therefore invaded private residences, arrested suspected "federalists," threatened others, and made himself generally feared everywhere. Instead of confining his attention to his military duties, he has interfered in local political affairs and has used force where only the ballot is required to settle petty differences. For a few days the telegrams were full of complaints and indications of trouble, but they are now more tranquil in character. In Pernambuco the Martins faction, which controls the state legislature and is supported by the national executive, has been actively at work against the governor, and a rupture has been imminent from day to day. Failing to induce the military commandant to depose the governor, and also failing to depose the municipal councils which are supporting the state executive, the legislature has now begun impeachment proceedings. In all probability these proceedings will soon reach a point where the only solution will be an appeal to arms. It is said that the President's secretary, Col. Valladão, has succeeded in arranging a compromise, but we are inclined to believe it very superficial and temporary in character. Martins will accept nothing which does not pander to his vanity and conceit, and the other party will not submit to this. However it may be settled, it is to be deplored that President Floriano Peixoto has not preserved a strictly neutral and impartial attitude in the controversy. His inability to keep out of these local partisan intrigues will inevitably be the ruin of his administration. The Rio Grande conflict has now developed into civil war, all because the President would support a partisan chief who had forced himself upon that state by violent means. Unless Major Firmino is recalled, or better advised, the state of Santa Catharina will also be drawn into revolt, and if federal intervention in Pernambuco is not withdrawn another serious conflict is sure to result. The national executive should keep strictly aloof from local political intrigues, and should employ pacificatory means when called upon to interfere. The President has failed to do this and he is consequently in serious trouble over it.

CABINET CHANGES.

The long impending rupture in the cabinet took place on the 27th, the minister of finance offering his resignation on that day and the minister of marine withdrawing from the council of ministers to send in his resignation on the following day. That dissensions existed has long been known, and it was also known that they were sufficiently serious to make it impossible for the cabinet to act harmoniously much longer. The resignation of Dr. Lamport d'Almeida a fortnight since was of an personal character to indicate the course which other members of the cabinet would pursue, but as it was well known that the ministers were not entirely agreed upon the coercive policy begun in Rio Grande it was certain that the recent policy adopted by the minister of war could not fail to bring these differences to an issue. This was practically what occurred at the cabinet meeting of the 27th. Instead of appearing the minister of finance sent in his resignation, which was based on the financial policy of the executive, and the minister of marine withdrew to prepare a letter tendering his resignation for the following day.

The immediate cause of the resignation of the minister of finance was a communication received by him from the President on Thursday evening containing a memorandum for a decree reforming the *tribunal de contas*, or annulling its acts in trying

to restrict public expenditures to the legislative appropriations. The requirements of the army in Rio Grande have caused many extraordinary and unauthorized expenditures and the opposition properly shown by the *tribunal* to these unwarranted uses of the public money led the President to resolve upon his practical dissolution. Although Minister Serzedello has not been particularly sensitive over these dictatorial acts of authority, he resolved not to be an accomplice in the destruction of so necessary a branch of the Treasury as this annulling commission.

In his letter of resignation he first alludes to the critical situation of the Treasury and to the "urgent measures" which he presented at the last cabinet meeting to secure economy in expenditures. Among these were the suppression of advances and commissions abroad, a reduction of expenses through the postponement of all public works not urgently required, a reduction in the China and Chicago commissions, and the recall of all naval vessels in foreign waters—the expenditures for all of which are now increasing the deficit.

As to the *tribunal de contas*, he considers it the best protection the Treasury can have, and for this reason he considers the proposed reform a serious error. Instead of annulling accounts and refusing those not regular, or not legal, it will become simply an instrument for conferring and registering them, without power to protect the Treasury against abuses in expenditures.

The reasons for the resignation of the minister of marine are both political and administrative, and as they relate to the civil war in Rio Grande we give them in full:

LETTER OF RESIGNATION OF THE MINISTER OF MARINE.

Rio de Janeiro, 28th April, 1893.

Marshal,

Much more than a month ago I had the honor of apprising Your Excellency, in a cabinet council, of the possibility of a pacific solution of the conflict in which Rio Grande do Sul is engaged. My purpose was patriotic, and would, by means of a conciliation, have relieved that state of the republic from a situation which has converted it into a perennial source of hatreds and internal dissensions.

In order to not disturb the country, at a time when the action of the government in a time of such political gravity should be homogeneous, I did not at once hand in my resignation of the portfolio which I held, and, insuring on the solution proposed and which Your Ex. afterwards undertook to realize, I hoped to see peace soon reestablished in that unhappy state.

In later hearing me, Your Ex. was good enough, in accordance with the whole ministry, to accept my reasons and then again undertook to transmit your orders in the sense of a pacification.

After a promise so categorically and twice confirmed, it was not permitted me in doubt that it would be at once realized, and, therefore, to my amazement I was yesterday surprised with a resolution in a sense entirely opposed to the previous undertakings and solemnly agreed to by Your Ex.

I was and am of opinion that the federal government ought to sustain the governors elected by the states. This principle, however, can not be absolute, it admits exceptions like all those which regulate the guidance of public opinion. It is publicly known and felt that the actual administration in Rio Grande do Sul does not represent the majority of our compatriots in that state; it is not a chosen government imposed by popular opinion, and under such conditions it is a weak government which can only be sustained by the support of the federal military forces.

Now, Marshal, the republican situation needs stability, its institutions need to be consolidated, and the first condition of stability which the republic stands in need of, is precisely peace and public tranquillity, avoiding henceforth and forever these internal commotions which distract our credit and hold the country constantly under the threat of armed agitations and the surprises of sanguinary conflicts.

I have within me the unalterable conviction that the revolutionary movement of the south has no purpose of restoration. At the front of it are to be found historic republicans, whose political traditions exclude every suspicion of an attempt against the political institutions of the country. Most of them fought after the coup d'état of 3rd November for the reinvigoration of national honor and dignity, co-operating in the great movement of reaction in favor of legality.

Under such conditions it would be a libel to assert that the revolutionists are fighting to-day for another cause that shall not be a guarantee of the rights and liberties which have been trampled under foot. We ought at least to judge these our compatriots with the impartiality which all servants of the country are entitled to, and by their political conduct.

You now say that you cannot adopt my suggestion because the constitution is opposed to the means that would have to be used to carry it out.

But, Marshal, Your Ex. must understand that no law can be imposed to order, nor be made an obstacle to the progress and development of a nation. If our constitution is, in your opinion, an obstacle to the pacification of Rio Grande do Sul, the executive, whose duty it is to maintain domestic peace and watch over public tranquillity, and which cannot, therefore, leave in an armed struggle the fate of the whole state, should, in my opinion, in a question of public safety, like that which is now agitated, adopt extraordinary and even extra-legal measures to the pacification of all Brazils.

Your Ex. thinks that a reconciliation with the revolutionists may be effected after the federal troops have won a victory over the enemy; but if you admit the possibility of a conciliation after a battle, why not admit it before a battle?

What, then, justifies this blameworthy? Does the federal army require it?

It is assuredly not the blood of immaculate brethren that will give it glory and lustre.

And who can assure us that this victory is certain? Who knows what means of action are at the disposal of the revolutionists, who certainly have the advantage of being injured to the effects of the climate which cannot fail to decimate our brave, intrepid and valiant northern soldiers?

And what if the revolutionists, whose policy seems to be to rear up our soldiers, refuse to give battle?

You perceive, then, Marshal, that you propose a solution that does not correspond to the present political emergency, nor find any justification whatever in history. Your policy, then, endangers the public weal, aggravating a situation that cannot be maintained and against which protest the simplest precepts of humanity and all feelings of republican fraternity. It is a perennial source of evils for the republic, since you infelicitously postpone a just and reasonable solution for a crisis in which you should have long since put an end.

There is another circumstance of great political weight, which strengthens my purpose of resigning my portfolio, and that is the want of skill with which, in my opinion, the military operations have been conducted and from which resulted the disaster at Alegrete, a disaster which will inevitably be followed by others.

No one more than myself, Marshal, renders homage to the spirit of rectitude which governs your conduct in public and private life, and which places it above the suspicion of any motive not dictated exclusively by your concern for the public weal, and it is, consequently, to be regretted that you should remain in the republic of Uruguay as a purchasing agent for the army and navy, according to information received from trustworthy sources, including a letter from our minister in Montevideo, is wanting in respectability and is otherwise unqualified for so responsible a position.

I regret, I repeat, that the information which has been furnished to you in regard to this commissioner does not coincide with that to which I have just referred.

In addition to what has herein been set forth, Your Ex. has not only failed to consult me in regard to matters connected with the revolutionary movement in Rio Grande do Sul, but has actually withheld them from my knowledge in a manner highly offensive to the honorable office that I hold. Some of the most important acts have been performed without my intervention.

There has been nothing to justify this treatment, and Your Ex. can not deny that I have displayed the utmost solicitude in affairs of state, offering free and loyal support to the head of the government and giving the republicans assistance in all the political and moral force which it has needed in the arduous task, imposed upon us by circumstances, of upholding the sway of the law. Neither my political skill respect nor the elevated office which I hold will permit my remaining in the position in which Your Ex. has thus placed me.

I hold, Marshal, that I do not merely share the political responsibility of the government and of its administrative acts; it is my duty, as minister, to manage public affairs and to be responsible for the events that may result from the manner in which they are managed, especially at this period bristling with difficulties. Thus, equally upon the head of the government and his minister public opinion is entitled to exercise the right of criticism and censure. I cannot, then, consent to the idea of an exemption, nor will a republican administration and worthy men who will sacrifice the nobility of their political mandate to an office which does not gleam, but degrades, which does not ennoble, but humiliates.

For these reasons I present my resignation; but outside of the government I will continue to serve the republic, upholding its institutions and I legally constituted authorities, with the same devotion, fortune and loyalty with which I have served it as minister.

With the utmost respect and esteem I have the honor to sign myself

Your friend, admirer and obedient servant,

CESIMIO DE MATO.

RIVER PLATE ITEMS.

—From January 1st to April 11th the Argentine consular at Montevideo granted 804 free passages to destitute persons returning in Argentina.

—A Buenos Aires telegram of the 26th ult. says that the *tribunal de contas* there holds that the steamship companies must pay all quarantine freights. This is another restriction on commerce which will operate to compel steamers to avoid Brazilian ports.

—The Uruguayan government must be very hard up surely. A Montevideo advice of the 12th ult. says that of the second consignment of silver coin, amounting to a little over \$155,000 and deposited with the London and River Plate Bank, the government had been able to withdraw only \$20,000.

—The chief of staff proposes that the Argentine standing army shall consist of a regiment of engineers, three regiments of light artillery, one of mountain artillery, ten regiments of cavalry and 24 battalions of infantry, with a total effective force of 120,000 men, being 1,400 more than was authorized by Congress.

—A collector being unable to collect \$6,459.53 from the province of Buenos Aires on a material and duly-purchased toll, has applied to the federal courts for a writ of seizure on 3,000 Remington rifles stored in the police office at La Plata. The application has been granted and the rifles will be sold at public auction if the provincial government does not pay up.

—A man in the right direction. Major Day and other Argentine officials will leave shortly for Berlin, to study the organization of the German army. This is good news. Major Day is a born artillery officer and the best in the army since Colonel Campos was killed beside a field-piece in the Puque in the revolution of '90. There is much to learn from the Germans in gunnery, and Major Day is the man to learn it.—Buenos Aires *South-Cross*.

—A petition, signed by a number of Montevideo merchants, has been presented to the Uruguayan government, requesting that the agents of transatlantic steamships shall be compelled to leave, on their return from Buenos Aires, sufficient space on their vessels to load there at least 500 tons of merchandise to be shipped to Brazil. The petition is founded on the fact that these steamers afford the only means of transport to Rio de Janeiro and other Brazilian ports, and that at the present moment these steamers on their return voyage from Buenos Aires for Europe have hardly even any space at all for merchandise, for which reason all commerce is stopped between Montevideo and Brazil.

—Another case of lynching is reported, this time from the San Jorge county. Nine colonists entered the house of an Argentine who was supposed to have been the author of several robberies, and shot him in front of his wife. Now that the colonists have tasted blood there is no telling what deeds their fury will lead them to do, and we should not be surprised to hear that some of the worst of the authorities will be made to pay with their lives for their past misdeeds. Most law can only be put down by government punishing the bandits and assassins who have called it into existence, but as long as there is no protection offered the colonist for life and property no law will become more and more popular. —*Revista*, Buenos Aires, April 22.

—The hand-carts supplied to the hawkers of Buenos Aires by our paternal municipality are somewhat picturesque in appearance, but are attended by the detection of forming a much greater nuisance than the hawkers who they replace. In the first place the hawking business is now attended with twice as much noise as formerly. A hawker now has to keep a partner to help him with the cart, and also to help him howl. Consequently, where only one man howled before two men howl now; added to which there is the noise of the hand-cart wheels, and the bell, which for some occult reason is suspended from the front board. The one thing wanted in complete the work of turning our hawkers into unattractive nuisances is to supply them with coppers. The carts are hired to the hawkers by a firm here who obtained a monopoly for so doing from the municipality. Here we are again at the winning end of the field. Our municipality a creator of monopolies added to its many other distinctions. What next? —*Southern Cross*.

—A parliamentary paper containing diplomatic correspondence about emigration to Brazil, has just been issued in London. In consequence of the conclusion of a contract by the Brazilian government with a private company for the immigration of one million Europeans into the country, and with the concurrence of the British government, the emigrants' information office has, as a further notice calling attention to the facts, and warning intending emigrants to the danger of the climate of Brazil. We think the government would do better if they were to prohibit the emigration agents from publishing and spreading broadcast throughout the country the circulars which point Brazil as one of the best countries in the world, in fact a real El Dorado. We are aware of the class of information supplied by the Argentine information bureau in the years 1886 and 1887, and how much truth there was in it. We hold that these emigration agents should be proceeded against for publishing false information, by which hundreds of poor people are beguiled from their homes, only to perish from exposure and starvation on an inhospitable shore. —*Review*, Buenos Aires, April 22.

—After having scored "that fugitive from justice, Patrick Ryan," who certainly has done some things toward the protection of American citizens in Chile, the *Review of the River Plate* of the 15th ult., indulges in the following lament because the British minister at Buenos Aires has failed to sear the governor of Mendoza for a police assault on a British subject in that province:—"In view of these statements we have a perfect right to ask of what earthly use are British legations in South America if they cannot protect British subjects? Surely the taxpayers do not desire to keep up costly legations so that their members may be leaders of society. Either let British legations afford protection to British subjects or let us abolish them altogether. Society would be the loser but the taxpayers would gain. In the days of Pitt, British subjects were afforded protection. Now everything is changed. All other nations afford complete protection to their subjects, but Britishers are left out in the cold—unless a missionary or some free-trader is debauched by hungry savages, and then the cannon of British men-of-war thunders forth revenge, and British troops burn villages, and another possession is secured."

—The following facts, which are strictly accurate, are supplied to us by a well-known draper of this city, and testify to the encouragement extended to commerce under the present custom-house system. This draper, whom for convenience sake we will call Mr. X, recently ordered from Europe a new stock of woollen goods against the winter season. The invoice value of these goods, that is to say their cost in Europe, was £285, equal to \$1,739.50 gold. The nominal duty on this class of goods is 36 1/2%, and should therefore have amounted to \$639. But the hapless of the custom-house were not satisfied with the invoice value of the goods, but had to put on the valuation of their own, which they did most unskilfully by weight, although it is notorious that the value of woollen goods is not proportional to their weight. They thus assessed the goods not at their real value of \$1,739.50, but at an entirely fictitious value of \$2,070, and on this charged duties to the extent of £158, or \$754, instead of the legitimate duty, heavy enough, of \$639. When to this there has to be added the cost of transport and the trader's commission, it will be evident that these goods cannot be retailed here at less than double their original cost in Europe, so that every one who wants a yard of this stuff has to pay twice as much as if he were living in a remote inland county whence they were exported. —*Northwestern Times*, April 19.

—(Gabl was quoted at 307 in Buenos Aires yesterday.

—An epidemic of diphtheria is reported from the Argentine province of Salta.

—The Argentine minister of foreign affairs offered his resignation on the 29th, which was accepted.

—It is stated that the Uruguayan government intends to organize an army of 5,000 men to prevent revolutions of the neighborhood of its territory by the Rio Grande belligerents.

—According to the *Times of Argentina*, which seems to have mistaken the private detective business so profitably followed by the *New York World* and other papers, the fugitive Billhar has been living in Buenos Aires under the assumed name of J. Butler. The *Times* also says that the two American fugitives O'Brien and Minchen have been under the assumed names of J. C. Corwin and Dr. Havers.

—Every train that arrives down from Rosario brings hatches of colonists who have been virtually driven out of the country by taxation and the insecurity afforded them by the authorities for the protection of life and property. We recommend the President of the republic to question some of these sons of toil, who are being driven forth from their respectable homes, and let him ponder upon the reply that he will surely receive. Lynch law has commenced, but one isolated case is not enough to awaken the government to any sense of their duty. Telegrams were received early in the week, stating that a camp *juice de paz* had murdered an Italian colonist in one of the Santa Fé colonies; but unless it is on the part of the mob, no punishment will be meted out to the culprit. —*Revista*, Buenos Aires.

From *The Financial News*, London, March 25.

ENGLISH BANK OF THE RIVER PLATE.

In the Chancery division yesterday, before Mr. Justice Chitty, the matter of the English Bank of the River Plate, Limited, and the Companies Acts, in which the Bank of Brazil appeared ex parte upon summons, came on for judgment. The applicants, who were the drawers of certain bills of exchange to the amount of £218,000, had been admitted to prove the amount of the bills, with the expenses when liquidation arose. The bills were drawn in Brazil, and accepted as payable in London, and the applicants now sought to be permitted to prove certain notary expenses payable by the holders of the bills, and commission which the drawers had paid to their bankers. The question which the court had to decide was whether the applicants were entitled to prove these additional sums. His Lordship held that the first sum of £180 the applicants were entitled to prove. As to the second claim for expenses of protest for better security against the drawer, he thought they were not entitled to recover, and the claim for commission could not, therefore, be sustained. His Lordship made no order as to costs.

From the *Buenos Aires Herald*, April 14.

BEARING FRUIT.

The Argentine republic is in a state of semi-revolution. Every province is either threatening an outbreak or is prevented from rising in insurrection by armed forces directed by men who hold authority by virtue of fraud and by the greed of haymotes. There is in no province a representative government, none that was chosen or accepted by public opinion, but every one was constituted and is held by an oligarchy without the least care for or reference to public opinion. Inasmuch as there are fewer places of power and profit than of aspirations, those who fail to obtain these prizes take to the formation of opposition and reform parties in the hope of thrusting from the public office those who hold them and taking their places, so that the only issue between any two parties in any province is the retaining or the obtaining of power and its accompanying pelf. The people are not interested in one party any more than in another, except that they are how irresolutely loyal is the party in power, they sympathize with any movement which promises to effect a change, without thinking that the new men will probably be in no way better. It is this elimination of the people from politics and elections (?) which makes our case so serious, for there is absolutely no hope of anything better until the people themselves undertake the formation and direction of affairs. Until then, politics will remain a struggle between those out of office and those in office. Those who hold this view of politics are men who will scruple at nothing in order to carry their point. To them it is of little consequence that there are revolts, seditions, schemes, bad faith, treason and the dishonor of the republic in the eyes of the civilized world, if so be by these or any other means they can compass power and secure the plunder that comes therefrom. To them it matters little that the name of the republic is discredited, that it becomes a synonym for fraud, disgrace and violence, if by such a price they may secure the object of selfish seeking. To them bloodshed, outrage, thieving, murder are of little account and are even sometimes the chosen agents in the pursuit of their purposes.

To confront such a state of affairs harmless negotiations are insufficient and with such elements compromise is surrender. For these reasons and in view of these facts, we see absolutely no hope in any of the means employed or of the expedients or improving matters. Now can this be so evil as to look to the creatures of fraud, force and violence for the fruitage of freedom. We have revolted on every hand, and we shall always have it *in esse* or *in posse* until the people have and exercise their right to elect and guide their own government.

THE Bahimore and Ohio is an enterprising road, and already operates what it chooses to call a Royal Blue Line. But the company is not satisfied with this achievement and proposes "to go one better" by running a Royal Crimson Line. Commenting on this new departure an enthusiastic American contemporary remarks:—"The train will be painted a bright crimson from the nose of the locomotive, and on which a red-headed fireman will shovel coal for a red-headed engineer who will receive orders from a red-headed conductor, and will answer the signals of a red-headed brakeman, and special rates will be made to red-headed passengers; it is worthy of note as the only train in the world that will be strictly in favor of the color line." Red-headed Britishers who think of visiting Chicago this year might possibly save money by entering into negotiations with the Baltimore and Ohio company. —*The Rattle*, London, April 1.

PROVINCIAL NOTES

—The Minas Geraes legislature was opened on the 27th ult.

—Cases of yellow fever continue to appear at Pernambuco.

—A Montevideo telegram of the 27th ult. states that Gen. Telles had received 2,500 horses.

—More arms arrived from the United States seized by the custom-house at Pernambuco on the 25th ult.

—We hear that the first cricket match between Santos and S. Paulo will take place at the latter place on the 11th inst.

—It is stated that the 150 men who went over to Col. Sabado belong to his old battalion (the 6th) and that they informed him that Uruguayana would not resist an attack.

—According to a telegram of the 25th ult. Gen. Moura, minister of war, had returned to Porto Alegre. On the 28th it was reported that he had gone to Cacequy.

—The president of Santa Catharina telegraphs that the federal troops under Major Fimino are spreading terror wherever they make their appearance in that state.

—A Bahia telegram of the 27th ult. notes the arrival there of the steamer *Dorset* in a disabled condition. The *Dorset* was found in New York, from Santos, with a cargo of coffee.

—Among the munitions of war seized by the Pernambuco custom-house were several melinite bombs. They are said to have been imported for the governor.

—It is reported in Pernambuco that the opposition in that state and in those of Ceará, Pará and Amazonas will unite in a revolutionary movement in favor of the Rio Grande federalists.

—The police authorities at Campos have all resigned. It is said they are disgusted because the state government declines to take a serious view of the alleged revolutionary plot of the three sergeants.

—The Pernambuco chamber of deputies has passed a resolution for sending in the Rio de Janeiro press against the invectives of the *Figaro*, but who is to protest against the telegrams of Moreira Alves?

—A Montevideo telegram of the 27th ult. says that Col. Salgado is marching toward Quilmes, the move toward Uruguayana being a feint. This, hardly agrees with the reports of skirmishing in the vicinity of Uruguayana.

—During the eclipse several instantaneous photographs of the sun were taken by private persons in the city of Ceará, where the phenomenon attracted much interest, being witnessed, it is said, by nearly all the population of the city.

—It was reported in Pernambuco on the 28th ult. that several officers of the police went in disguise to the commercial establishment of state deputy Veras for the purpose of killing him. A man who frustrated this purpose was, it is said, severely beaten by them.

—A Montevideo telegram of the 25th ult. states that the arms forwarded by the government had been taken to Uruguayana. It also states that Col. Salgado, after skirmishing with the troops of Gen. Hyppolyto at Viamontes, had arrived within a league of that city.

—At Porto Alegre on the 27th ult. D. Zulmira Dias attempted to throw herself from the window of a hotel. It is the second time she has attempted suicide, her reason being unsettled by the report of the death of her husband, a captain of the 6th infantry, in an engagement near Alegrete.

—In the city of Pernambuco the prefect recognized by the legislature has notified taxpayers to make no payments to the prefect recognized by the government under penalty of having to pay again. He also declares that no documents signed by the latter prefect are valid. The latter, however, retains possession of the office.

—A Porto Alegre telegram of the 30th ult. says that Generals Lima and Pinheiro Machado, who at Silvestre, were making forced marches to effect a junction with General Hyppolyto at Uruguayana. This united force, the Cavalry Division, would comprise 6,000 men. A month ago the same force was said to number 9,000 men. Where have those 3,000 men gone to?

—A subscriber of one of the Rio daily papers writes from Santa Isabel do Rio Preto that when he asks for his paper at the postoffice he is informed that the post-master has lent it to some one. He complains that he loses every month from 4 to 7 papers and he sometimes gets 18 papers at once. To this we can add that many of our own subscribers in the interior are continually making similar complaints. Is it not possible to impress upon post-masters the necessity of doing their work properly and honestly?

—The influenza is said to be prevalent at Pará and Manaus.

—It is stated that during the eclipse at Ceará bats came out and fowls went to roost.

—The legislature of Pará has passed a law for building a railway for connecting the capital of the state with the town of Salinas.

—The theatre of Pia in Pará is to be lighted with electricity. The state legislature has appropriated 50,000 for this purpose.

—The Pernambuco chamber of deputies has decided to suspend the governor of the state, 21 deputies having voted in favor of the measure.

—The municipal chamber of Pará has accepted a proposal from the Companhia Figueirora for supplying the city with meat at 700 reis per kilo.

—Martins Junior has resigned his professorship in the Pernambuco law school so as not to be ineligible at the congressional elections in October.

COFFEE NOTES

—It is estimated that the civil war in Venezuela will reduce the coffee crop there fully 20 per cent.

—According to latest returns the coffee industry in India has 30 million rupees invested in joint-stock plantations, mills, etc.

—The total quantity of coffee and tea exported from Travancore during the year 1892 was 3,725 cwts, 43 1/2 lbs. of the former and 7,491 cwts. of the latter, and the exports of coffee from Cochín during the same period amounted to 219,102 cwts. —*Times of Ceylon*.

—In mid-Java the coffee crop has been greatly marred by heavy and continuous rainfall; leaf-disease has also made considerable headway, and on most of the estates the yield is expected to shrink heavily this year. The coffee crop in Singel Ujung promises to be a heavy one. In these days of high prices a good thing for local planters. —*Exchange*.

RAILROAD NOTES

—The Recife and S. Francisco directors have declared a dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum for the last half year.

—It is to be noted that the celebrated Muzambinho company, so powerfully protected when Ceanio Alvim was in power, is now considered a deserving applicant for a loan of bonus titles.

—The Bahia and S. Francisco directors have declared a 6 per cent. dividend, to pay which they have taken £633 from the working capital account, which now stands at £89,386. The dividend on the Timbo branch is 3 1/2 per cent.

—The Great Northern Railway of Brazil Co., Limited, has made a claim of £297,100 on the government. This claim originates in the alleged infringement on the company's privileged territory by the grant made to the Great Western railway.

—The *Odem*, of Cachoeira, Bahia, says that the stations along the Central Bahia line are full of produce awaiting shipment to market. The crops of tobacco, cotton and other products are this year exceptionally large, and the railway does not possess rolling stock and hants enough to carry them down to the port of Bahia as rapidly as they are presented for shipment.

—The *Faiz* publishes the following telegram from Uberaba dated April 28: "We heard to-day that traffic will be interrupted on the Mogyana road at the stations of Conquista and Ribeirão Preto. This interruption will be caused by merchants and others whose interests have suffered from the had management of the Mogyana railway. The merchants of this place, who are among those who have suffered most, since this place is an *entrepôt* of the trade with a part of Minas, Mato Grosso and Goyaz, fully concur in the interruption of traffic. In the last few days more than 50 cars have returned empty to the interior, although there is merchandise here that has been awaiting shipment for over a year. It is an attention whatever the Mogyana company has paid no attention whatever to complaints. We even hear it said that it is proposed to blow up with dynamite the station at this city as a protest against the negligence and contempt which the company treats the interests of trade." A pretty strong protest, assuredly. But we are puzzled to see how this will improve traffic.

—A most important act has been passed by the United States Congress, viz., the Railway Safety Appliance Bill. This bill provides that after January 1st, 1898, every locomotive engine used in moving inter-state traffic must have a power driving-wheel brake and appliances for operating the train-brake system, and that every train must have a sufficient number of cars so equipped with power or train brakes that the engineer on the locomotive driving the train can control it without requiring brakemen to use the common hand brake. It is provided also that after the same date it shall be unlawful to use any cars not equipped with couplers coupling automatically by compact and which can be uncoupled without the necessity of men going between the ends of the cars. Within three months after the passage of the act the American Railway Association is authorized to designate to the Interstate Commission the standard height of drawbars for freight cars and fix also the maximum working load from that standard height. If the association does not act by July 1st, 1894, then the commission must determine a standard, and after July 1st, 1895, no car, loaded or unloaded, can be used which does not comply with this standard. Any violation of this act is punishable by a fine of \$100 for each engine and every offence, and it also provides that "Any employee who may be injured by any locomotive, car, or train in use contrary to the provisions of this act shall not be deemed thereby to have assumed the risk thereby occasioned, although continuing in the employment of such carrier after the unlawful use of such locomotive, car, or train had been brought to his knowledge."

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30 Jar. Bot. Ivan	170	Nachinal 200

—Admiral Wandenkolk, before his departure for Montevideo, addressed the following letter to Louis Kuy Barbosa:—"Rio, 22nd Apr. 28, 1893.—"I send you a letter to leave to the French minister at Montevideo and Buenos Aires. I have emitted it best to make this trip in order to absent myself for a little while from this centre of gossip, as to give the spics a little rest. I have availed myself of the opportunity to write you a little. I regard my trip so as not to excite much or give rise to rumors. I do not think I shall be long absent, for I do not wish to fail to take part in the labors of the coming session of Congress, which will probably be of great political importance. I shall write you from one of those towns. Sincerely your grateful friend, E. Wandenkolk."

ROBERTSON.—On the 27th inst., at Rio de Janeiro, JASPER ALEXANDER ROBERTSON, of São Paulo, youngest son of the late Jasper Lyon Robertson of Calcutta, aged 20 years.

April 29th, 1893.

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CO	200
CO	200

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Industrial	200
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Industrial S. Sebastião	£.22 10 5

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